



**Date:** February 24, 2006  
**To:** Gerald R. Miller, City Manager  
**From:** Katherine Parsons, Public Information Officer  
**For:** Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**Subject:** City Report For Week Ending February 24, 2006.

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This *City Report* highlights various activities for the week ending, February 24, 2006. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

### **MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **City Manager – Red Team**

California U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, Representative Juanita Millender-McDonald and Representative Dana Rohrabacher and local elected officials joined at a press conference at Boeing's C-17 factory in Long Beach on February 22 to question the Pentagon's decision to not fund the C-17 program. The Long Beach contingent of federal representatives each expressed outrage at the Pentagon's decision. Unless the Pentagon's decision is reversed, or a compromise is reached, the C-17 manufacturing plant in Long Beach could be closed.

#### **City Manager – The Royal Rendezvous**

Thousands of spectators watched from the shoreline as The Queen Mary 2 visited her Long Beach namesake on February 23, bringing international and national media attention to Long Beach. Reminiscent of the original Queen's arrival in 1967, a flotilla of small vessels greeted the new Queen as she steamed into Long Beach Harbor just east of the original Queen Mary. Fourteen media helicopters buzzed overhead as the QM2 greeted her kin with three blasts of her horn – to be answered moments later by the Queen Mary's 75-year-old horns.

For video and photos, please visit:

[http://www.presstelegram.com/news/ci\\_3540496](http://www.presstelegram.com/news/ci_3540496)

#### **Public Works**

City Hall employees working in the City Auditor, City Prosecutor, City Attorney, City Manager, City Clerk, Civil Service, Human Resources, Planning and Building, Public Works, Technology Services offices were invited to hear Public Works Director Christine Anderson reveal the results of a comprehensive seismic study of the City Hall facility. The hour-long presentation was offered at six times throughout the day on February 22. To view the presentation to City Council during the February 21 Study Session visit [www.longbeach.gov](http://www.longbeach.gov), and select Council, Video, Video Archives, Special Meeting, 2/21.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS**

### **Civil Service – Opportunity For Employees**

The Civil Service Department will be hosting an Open House for City employees on Tuesday, **March 7** from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Wednesday, **March 8** from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., on the 7th floor of City Hall. City employees will be able to meet and talk with Civil Service Department staff; explore various career opportunities available within the City; receive one-on-one counseling and helpful advice for on career development; and attend mini-seminars on examination preparation. Additional information, as well as the program and workshop schedules are available on the Civil Service Department website at [www.longbeach.gov/civilservice](http://www.longbeach.gov/civilservice).

## **AWARDS**

### **Fire**

On February 18, 28 community members completed the six-week Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training program. Participants demonstrated their new skills in fire suppression, disaster first aid, search and rescue techniques, and disaster preparedness for friends and families.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **Police**

Citywide, police officers responded to 639 priority one, 1,397 priority two and 1,172 priority three calls for service, for a total of 3,208 responses.

The Vice Detail conducted a John program in the area of Anaheim Street and Cherry Avenue. During the operation officers made nine arrests, and impounded six vehicles.

### **Fire**

The Fire Department responded to a total of 1,435 emergency calls for service: 148 calls for fires, of which 22 involved structures; and 751 emergency medical calls, of which 514 required paramedics.

## **NEIGHBORHOODS**

### **Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Programs Bureau**

On February 22, the Long Beach Senior Center hosted its annual Black History Program. More than 84 seniors listened to performances by the Swing Silver Band and Blues soloist Charlie Paxton, heard a dramatic reading by Mary Butler, a recital by the Debembrabrah West African Dance and Drum Group and enjoyed a presentation of Steel Drums by Jennifer Guzzo.

On February 24, Martin Luther King, Jr. Park hosted its annual Black History Month Celebration with more than 100 families and friends participating in the festivities. This event featured a variety of African American dishes, live performances, poetry readings, live music, and much more.

### **NEIGHBORHOODS (continued)**

#### **Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau**

A demonstration project completed this week is anticipated to help stabilize Junipero Avenue bluff on a temporary basis. The International Erosion Control Association (IECA) held their annual conference in Long Beach this week, and as part of the conference, held a field day event at the Junipero Avenue bluff. Vegetation was removed from the bluff last week, and the area was then hydroseeded with a mix of plants native to California beach environments, and a variety of erosion control measures were installed, including erosion control blankets and fiber rolls. The field day is an educational tool the association uses to teach its members and attendees proper installation and maintenance of the most common Best Management Practices (BMPs) used to control sediment and prevent erosion.

#### **Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Enrichment Programs Bureau**

On February 18, at the Rancho Los Cerritos, the visual arts curator from the Museum of the American West traced the history of key California landscape painters during 19th century. Thirty-two guests attended the lecture, which focused heavily on depictions of national parks, including Yosemite, and covered works by Bierstadt, Moran, and many others. Friends of Rancho Los Cerritos, the museum's membership and volunteer support organization underwrote the event.

#### **Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau**

Trees and shrubs have been planted in the street medians on Cherry Ave. between Artesia Blvd. and 70th St., and on Artesia Blvd. between Obispo Ave. and Downey Ave.

#### **Fire**

On February 21, Long Beach Fire Ambassadors and Engine 9 visited Los Cerritos Elementary to teach third grade students the importance of fire safety. Students went through the Fire Safety House.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Community Development, Property Services**

Ensemble Hotel Partners are scheduled to break ground in late spring on a new 152-suite Residence Inn Hotel at 600 Queensway Drive. Located on the site of the former Naga Restaurant, this City lease property is currently undergoing soil work. Construction is scheduled to take 12 to 14 months to complete, with an opening expected in early 2008.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

#### **Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Enrichment Programs Bureau**

On February 17 and 18, the El Dorado Nature Center, through the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, hosted the annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) as a way for experts and amateur birders to contribute information to a nation-wide study on the wintering habits of birds. People were invited to visit the El Dorado Nature Center, count the birds they saw, and have the data entered on the GBBC website.

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### **SPECIAL EVENTS (continued)**

#### **Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Programs Bureau**

Universities from Southern California competed in the Big West Conference that featured a variety of swimming and diving competitions from February 15 to 19, at Belmont Plaza Pool. More than 800 athletes and spectators attended this event.

Universities from California, Arizona and Washington competed in the Pac-10 Women's Swimming Championship from February 21 to 26, at Belmont Plaza Pool. More than 550 athletes and spectators attended this event.

#### **Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events and Filming Bureau**

The Queen Mary Scottish Festival, with an estimated attendance of 9,000, was held in the Queen Mary Events Park on February 18 and 19.

Regency Fox Entertainment, with a cast and crew of 85, filmed a TV show *Windfall* at Blair Field, Wilson High School, and various other locations on February 21.

Paramount Pictures TV, with a cast and crew of 400, filmed a Long Beach, Wilson High School, based feature movie *Freedom Writers* at Shoreline Park on February 21.

Paramount Pictures TV, with a cast and crew of 85, filmed a TV show *Medium* at Arco Towers and at St. Mary Hospital on February 21.

### **OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE**

#### **Long Beach Gas & Oil, Gas Services Bureau**

Staff completed a total of 3,128 service calls. This total included 945 and Water Utility Turn Ons, and 730 Turn Offs. During this period, 1,163 Customer Service Orders were completed for services that included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders, and verifying read orders. A total of 290 meter maintenance and billing-related orders were completed. In addition, Gas Control/Dispatch (24/7 operation) received 475 emergency phone calls that resulted in 95 emergency orders being sent out.

### **STREET CONSTRUCTION**

#### **New**

##### **Long Beach Gas and Oil, Gas Pipe Installation**

Contact 570.2060

Clair Del Avenue: East of Cherry Avenue and South of Del Amo Boulevard

**Estimated completion: 5/15/06**

#### **Ongoing**

##### **Long Beach Gas and Oil, Gas Regulator Station Rebuild**

Contact: 570.2060

Colorado St. & Nieto Ave.

**Estimated Completion: 4/7/06**

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**STREET CONSTRUCTION**

**Ongoing (continued)**

**Public Works, Street Improvements**

Contact: 570.5160

Atlantic Ave. North of Artesia Blvd. to a point North of 68th St.

Cherry Ave. North of Artesia Blvd. to 70th St.

Artesia Blvd. East of Obispo Ave. to Downey Ave.

**Estimated Completion: February 2006**

Anaheim Street Obispo to Ximeno

10th Street Orange Ave. to Cherry Ave.

**Estimated Completion: March 2006**

**Long Beach Water, Alley Service Lateral Conversion**

Contact: 570. 2326

Cedar Ave. E. Burnett St. to Hill St.

Chestnut Ave. E. Burnett St. to Hill St.

Pasadena Ave. E. Burnett St. to Pacific Electric Railroad

Linden Ave. E. Burnett St. to 25<sup>th</sup> Way

**Estimated Completion: April 2006**

**Long Beach Gas and Oil, Gas Pipe Installation**

Contact 570.2060

Linden Avenue: De Forrest Park area.

**Estimated completion: 4/12/06**

Orange Avenue: Lewis to Cherry Ave.

**Estimated completion: 4/24/06**

GRM: KP

cc: Christine Shippey, Assistant City Manager  
Reginald Harrison, Deputy City Manager  
Suzanne Mason, Deputy City Manager  
City Manager Department Heads  
Tom Modica, Manager, Government Affairs  
Jyl Marden, City Council Liaison